



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Summary September 20, 2010**

#### **Approval of May 17, 2010 Meeting Summary**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joel Cockrell. The May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was approved. (The June meeting was a presentation of the annual report to the County Executive. The July meeting was a planning meeting for the upcoming year.)

#### **Introductions**

Introductions of members and guests were made around the room.

#### **Update from Upcounty Regional Services Center Staff**

Catherine Matthews, Director, shared the following highlights:

- The County Executive will hold a virtual town hall meeting on Tuesday, September 21, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. County residents will be able to talk with the County Executive and ask questions by visiting the County's website and logging onto the CE's homepage.
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> is Car Free Day. Montgomery County Commuter Services (MCCS) invites residents and employees to join the Washington region in celebrating Car Free Day. This event encourages the public to find alternatives to using cars, thereby reducing the amount of driving that day.
- Germantown/Milestone Fire and Rescue Station #34 is now open! A grand opening ceremony was held on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Germantown now has three fire stations.
- The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Germantown Oktoberfest will be on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Ridge Road Park. The festivities will begin at 11:00 am and end at dusk with fireworks.
- Financial Fitness Day is October 2, 2010. The Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA), along with community partners, will host the 10th Annual Montgomery County Housing Fair and Financial Fitness Day on Saturday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bohrer Park Activity Center.
- Montgomery County's Department of Technology is the proud recipient of the 2010 Digital Government Achievement Award.
- Updates on new and potential tenant agencies at the URSC were shared with the Board.
- The Montgomery County Council returned from recess on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The County Council will hold a public hearing on the zoning text amendment regarding Child Lot Standards in the Agricultural Reserve (ZTA 10-12) on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Then their Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee will hold work sessions.

#### **Update from the County Council**

No report.

### **Presentation: Emergency Preparedness Month by Chuck Crisostomo**

Chuck Crisostomo, Planning Division Manager of the Office of Emergency Management shared with the Board the importance of being emergency-prepared and ready in case of a community-wide emergency. He shared a four step path to preparedness for County residents. 1) Sign up for ALERT! Montgomery to get the latest alerts and information from Montgomery County delivered right to your email or texted to your cell phone. 2) Make a plan about what you should do is an emergency happens, by arranging a way to contact your family. 3) Make a kit; an emergency kit with the items that you and your family will need for at least 3 days. 4) Get involved in your community by volunteering at one of the many emergency volunteer organizations in the community.

### **Introduction: New Police Leadership in Upcounty**

Commanders Luther Reynolds, 5<sup>th</sup> District Police and Willie Parker-Loan, 6<sup>th</sup> District Police each introduced themselves to the Board and offered their assistance to the Board when needed.

### **The Status of Business in the Upcounty**

- **Tina Benjamin**, Manager of Special Projects, Department of Economic Development, reported on the status of businesses in the Upcounty. She reported that there is not much of a difference between the Upcounty and other areas where businesses are concerned. In spite of the state of the economy, businesses continue to grow in the area. Having a large federal government presence as one of the County's major tenants has helped tremendously. She was also happy to report that the Department of Energy has renewed their lease to stay in Germantown longer and appears to be a stable tenant.
- **Barbara Kaufmann**, Manager of Workforce Development, Department of Economic Development reported on the growing success of the Montgomery Works One Stop Center. Traffic to the center's locations has increased to approximately 15,000 annually. The center is looking to add more green industry jobs, healthcare training, and a business service representative who will work with employers.
- **Doug Wrenn**, Chairman-Elect, Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, reported on the collaboration that exists between the Chamber and the businesses in the area. The Chamber currently has 350 members.
- **Hilary Schwab**, President, Poolesville Area Chamber, reported that the Chamber currently has 120 members, most of which are home-based businesses. Their current focus is primarily on retention of the town's businesses that are also facing economic challenges.

### **Report from the Chairperson**

Chairperson Cockrell reminded the Board that the first two meetings of each committee will be joint meetings. Two issues that the committees will look at immediately are: the proposed reorganization of county government (Organizational Reform Commission), and the Child Lots Amendment. He expects that UCAB will want to submit comments on each item. He also acknowledged Board member Natalia Farrar's suggestion to have committee meetings back-to-back on the same evening so members could attend both if they wanted and so that additional staff resources wouldn't be needed. Newly appointed Planning Board Chair Francoise Carrier, has been invited to the Board's October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, UCAB's Quality of Life Committee and the Land Use & Preservation Committee will meet jointly to host an open forum for invited community leaders. He concluded by presenting a Board project initiated several years ago that the Executive Committee would like to see completed this year. The project would connect Board members more with HOAs and civic organizations. Former UCAB member, George Donovan, has volunteered to continue with the project until it's underway.

**Committee and Liaison Reports**

*Land Use and Preservation Committee* – No report.

*Quality of Life Committee* – No report.

*Airpark Liaison Committee* – No report.

*Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board Liaison* - No report.

*Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group (DFIG)* – No report.

*Speed Cameras Advisory Committee*– No report.

*Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee* – Board member Natalia Farrar reported that the group received a presentation at their July meeting from a developer who wants to replace the Reed Brothers auto dealership with a luxury apartment building and may apply for annexation to the City of Rockville, preferring to work with the City since they think that the City has a simpler regulatory process. That committee wrote to the County Council stating their opposition to the developer's annexation effort and their desire to keep the project within the County's jurisdiction.

*Permitting Services Advisory Committee* – Board member Andrew Einsmann reported that the committee has discussed implementing an online customer response survey, and the challenges facing the Department of Permitting Services as a self-funded department in county government. The department has received fewer applications for permits which translates into less revenue for the department to support their operation.

*Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Group* – Board member Andy Aviles reported that the workgroup's input on the consultant's initial design for the Webb Tract resulted in a revised layout for the site. If all components of the Smart Growth Initiative go forward, construction could start at the Webb site in July 2011 with a 2-3 year build-out. The relocation of the Equipment Maintenance Operations Center (EMOC) could start in December or January and be completed in August 2012. The workgroup will now meet quarterly with the next meeting scheduled in December 2010.

**Community Comments**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

*Members present:* Sean Augerson, Andres Aviles, Heinz Bachmann, Vineet Bhanot, Juan Cardenas, Joel Cockrell, Cherian Eapen, Andrew Einsmann, Natalia Farrar, James King, Matthew Leakan, Doug Noble, Robert Owolabi, Pat Seals, Robert Thompson, Rebecca Walker, James Wallace

*Other Guests:* Delegate Craig Rice (District 15), Councilmember Mike Knapp (District 2), Dale Tibbitts (Office of Councilmember Elrich), Anthony Gilmer (County Outreach), Lloyd Hall (Germantown Hard Knocks Youth Foundation), Toriano Cross (HHS- Street Outreach Network), Nathaniel Peery

(Individual), Brad Chod (Minkoff Developer), Terry O'Grady (MCCA), Paul Majewski (Clarksburg resident), Eileen Cahill (Holy Cross Hospital).

*Staff present:* Catherine Matthews and Andrea Bush